

REMARKS

Claims 24-28 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 19, 29, and 30 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-23 and 29-30 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-23, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Independent claims 1, 29, and 30 have been amended in a manner believed to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph of those claims. As claims 2-23 depend from claim 1, the Examiner's rejection of those dependent claims is also believed to have been overcome, accordingly.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-23, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the article "Business-to-Business online auctions: key issues for purchasing process improvement" (hereinafter referred to as "B-to-B"). The Examiner has also rejected Claims 1-23, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over B-to-B in view of the article "Stamp Center." Those rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has acknowledged that B-to-B does not disclose iteratively "increasing at least one of the origination area and the destination area of the lot to include more lanes within the lot, if it is determined that the total of the transport value for all lanes included within the lot does not exceed a predetermined amount, until the total of the transport value of all lanes included within the lot exceeds a predetermined amount" as recited in Claim 1. Stamp Center is an advertisement for stamp auctions that include lots having minimum lot values. Auction organizers in Stamp Center "research[], catalog[], describe[], and logically present[]]" material "to maximize results." Some Stamp Center items "will be lotted individually and others grouped depending on type of material, value and condition." Having auction organizers research stamps and group them into lots is not the same as iteratively increasing an origination area and destination area to include more lanes within a lot until a total transport value for all lanes included within a lot exceeds a predetermined amount as recited in Claim 1.

As neither B-to-B, nor Stamp Center, whether taken alone or in combination, disclose iteratively "increasing at least one of the origination area and the destination area of the lot to include more lanes within the lot, if it is determined that the total of the transport value for all lanes included within the lot does not exceed a predetermined amount, until the total of the

transport value of all lanes included within the lot exceeds a predetermined amount" as recited in claim 1, claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable. Independent Claims 29 and 30 recite language similar to that of claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claims 2-23 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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